GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4198
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2005
NON-SETTLEMENT OF BILLS BY CGHS DISPENSARIES
Appadurai Shri M.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that medicine suppliers to CGHS dispensaries have stopped supply of medicines due to non-settlement of their bills which runs into crores and crores of rupees for the last several years ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for non-settlement of bills ;

(c) the action taken by the Government to safeguard the welfare of the CGHS beneficiaries ;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to open medical shops in all CGHS dispensaries instead of depending upon private medicine suppliers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)&(b) The bills of the Authorised local chemists are cleared as per availability of funds on first-come-first-served basis. Sometimes, due to paucity of funds near the end of the financial year, additional funds are sought for clearing the bills of the CGHS Authorised local chemists.

(c) Adequate quantity of medicines is available in CGHS dispensaries. However, any drug prescribed by the specialists and not available in the dispensary is made available to the beneficiary from the Authorised local Chemist on the basis of individual prescription. In the case of CGHS dispensaries which do not have any authorised local chemist attached to them, the CGHS beneficiaries (including pensioner beneficiaries) are permitted to purchase the medicines from the open market for which reimbursement is made by the Government.

The Govt. has already approved an ad-hoc formulary for MSO/CGHS in respect of 504 proprietary drugs. Action to procure medicines for the CGHS as per the formulary has been initiated. As a result, availability of drugs in CGHS dispensaries is expected to improve further.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In view of (d) above, the question does not arise.

(f) In view of (c) above, the question does not arise.